

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

35 02 2001
 Applicant : Steven Reppert et al. Art Unit : 1646
 Serial No. : 09/226,046 Examiner : M. Pak
 Filed : January 5, 1999
 Title : HIGH-AFFINITY MELATONIN RECEPTOR AND USES THEREOF

BOX AF

Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the action mailed February 27, 2001, please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Cancel claims 34, 37-52, 54, 56, 58, and 60-77 without prejudice.

Amend claims 33, 35, and 53 as follows:

33. A method of testing a candidate compound for the ability to act as an agonist of a high affinity melatonin receptor ligand, said method comprising:

a) contacting said candidate compound with a mammalian cell which expresses on its surface a recombinant high-affinity melatonin receptor protein or melatonin binding fragment thereof, said cell having been transfected with an expression vector encoding said receptor protein or fragment thereof;

b) measuring intracellular cAMP concentration in said cell; and

c) where said contacting causes a decrease in intracellular cAMP concentration, identifying said candidate compound as an agonist of a high affinity melatonin receptor

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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